UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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10/661,350	09/12/2003	Kay Hans-Peter Winkler	5646-00900 S37957US	6745

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2132	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/661,350	WINKLER ET AL.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit
	DEVIN ALMEIDA	2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _15 April 2008_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.　　　　2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1,3-12 and 14-30_ is/are pending in the application.
　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1,3-12 and 14-30_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
　　a)☐ All　b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
　　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
　　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
　　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the papers filed 4/15/2008.

Response to arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claim have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinnis (WO 01/13574) in view of Sarfati et al (US

2004/0015316). With respect to claims 1 and 24, a method for validating a message

with a signature, wherein said method comprises: receiving said message with said

signature (see page 15 lines 19-24 i.e. The digital signature service receives the

signature file. The certificate, document and signature are extracted from the signature

file.); and carrying out an integrated validation and storing process, wherein said

signature is validated based on a validation algorithm (see page 16 line 11 – page 17

line 9 i.e. message digest) and a key (see page 16 line 11 – page 17 line 9 i.e.

certificate's public key) and said received message is stored in a database (see page 15

lines 8-15 i.e. if the document is verified through the digital signature, the document and the signature are stored in a persistent data store such as data store 700).

Kinnis does not teach where said message and validating said signature within one atomic process prevents possible modification of the message between validation and storage. Sarfati teaches where said message and validating said signature within one atomic process prevents possible modification of the message between validation and storage (paragraph 0159). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have prevented the modification of application between receiving and storing to make sure the code have not been tampered with (paragraph 0159). Therefore one would have been motivated to have prevented the modification of the message between receiving and storing.

With respect to claims 3 and 25, wherein the storing process is rolled back, if the signature is not valid (see page 15 lines 8-15 i.e. if the document is verified through the digital signature, the document and the signature are stored in a persistent data store such as data store 700).

With respect to claim 4, wherein the storing process is completed, if the signature is valid (see page 15 lines 8-15 i.e. if the document is verified through the digital signature, the document and the signature are stored in a persistent data store such as data store 700).

With respect to claim 7, wherein the integrated validation and storing process is carried out by said database (see figure 1 element 100 Digital Signature Service and page 15 line 7 – page 17 line 9).

With respect to claim 8, wherein the integrated validation and storing process is controlled by said database (see figure 1 element 100 Digital Signature Service and page 15 line 7 – page 17 line 9).

With respect to claim 10, wherein said signature is a digital signature (see page 15 line 7 – page 17 line 9).

With respect to claims 12 and 28, a method for generating a signature for a message, wherein said method comprises: carrying out an integrated receiving and generating process, wherein said message to be sent is received and said signature is generated based on a signing algorithm (see page 12 line 23 – page 15 line 5 i.e. message digest) and a key (see page 12 line 23 – page 15 line 5), and sending said message with said signature (see figure 5 and page 15 lines 3-5 i.e. once the signature file has been created the user of the digital signature service may use any means available to send a file to a recipient). Kinnis does not teach where said message and validating said signature within one atomic process prevents possible modification of the message between validation and storage. Sarfati teaches where said message and validating said signature within one atomic process prevents possible modification of the message between validation and storage (paragraph 0159). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have prevented the modification of application between

receiving and storing to make sure the code have not been tampered with. Therefore
one would have been motivated to have prevented the modification of the message
between receiving and storing.

With respect to claim 18, wherein said integrated receiving and generation
process is carried out in a database (see figure 1 element 100 Digital Signature Service
and page 15 line 7 – page 17 line 9), where said message to be sent is stored (see
page 15 lines 8-15 i.e. if the document is verified through the digital signature, the
document and the signature are stored in a persistent data store such as data store
700).

With respect to claim 19, wherein said signature is a digital signature (see page
15 line 7 – page 17 line 9).

With respect to claim 22, An apparatus for validating a message with a signature,
wherein said apparatus comprises: a first means for receiving said message with said
signature (see page 15 lines 19-24 i.e. The digital signature service receives the
signature file. The certificate, document and signature are extracted from the signature
file.); and a second means for carrying out an integrated validation and storing process,
wherein said second means are capable and affected to validate said signature based
on a validation algorithm (see page 16 line 11 – page 17 line 9 i.e. message digest) and
a key (see page 16 line 11 – page 17 line 9 i.e. certificate's public key) and to store said
message (see page 15 lines 8-15 i.e. if the document is verified through the digital
signature, the document and the signature are stored in a persistent data store such as
data store 700). Kinnis does not teach where said message and validating said

signature within one atomic process prevents possible modification of the message

between validation and storage. Sarfati teaches where said message and validating

said signature within one atomic process prevents possible modification of the message

between validation and storage (paragraph 0159). It would have been obvious at the

time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said

subject matter pertains to have prevented the modification of application between

receiving and storing to make sure the code have not been tampered with. Therefore

one would have been motivated to have prevented the modification of the message

between receiving and storing.

With respect to claim 23, An apparatus for generating a signature for a message,

wherein said apparatus comprises: means for carrying out an integrated receiving and

generating process, wherein said means are capable and affected to receive said

message to be sent and to generate said signature based on a signing algorithm (see

page 12 line 23 – page 15 line 5 i.e. message digest) and a key (see page 12 line 23 –

page 15 line 5); and means for sending said message with said signature (see figure 5

and page 15 lines 3-5 i.e. once the signature file has been created the user of the digital

signature service may use any means available to send a file to a recipient). Kinnis

does not teach where said message and validating said signature within one atomic

process prevents possible modification of the message between validation and storage.

Sarfati teaches where said message and validating said signature within one atomic

process prevents possible modification of the message between validation and storage

(paragraph 0159). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have

prevented the modification of application between receiving and storing to make sure

the code have not been tampered with. Therefore one would have been motivated to

have prevented the modification of the message between receiving and storing.

Claims 5, 6, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 29-30 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinnis (WO 01/13574) in view of Sarfati et al

(US 2004/0015316) in view of Slaughter (U.S. 6,643,650). Kinnis and Sarfati teach

everything with respect to claim 1 above but does not teach with respect to claims 5, 26

and 29 wherein said received message is locked before the integrated validation and

storing process is carried out and released after the integrated validation and storing

process has been finished. Slaughter teach using a ACID transaction wherein said

received message is locked before the integrated validation and storing process is

carried out and released after the integrated validation and storing process has been

finished (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). It would have been

obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to

which said subject matter pertains to have used ACID since in the event of a failure, all

operations and procedures should be undone, and all data should rollback to its

previous state (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). Therefore one

would have been motivated to have ACID to decrease the effects of failure on the

system.

With respect to claims 6, 27 and 30 wherein said received signature is locked before the integrated validation and storing process is carried out and released after the integrated validation and storing process has been finished (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12).

With respect to claim 11, wherein said integrated validation and storing process is carried out as an ACID transaction. Slaughter teaches wherein said integrated validation and storing process is carried out as an ACID transaction (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have used ACID since in the event of a failure, all operations and procedures should be undone, and all data should rollback to its previous state (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). Therefore one would have been motivated to have ACID to decrease the effects of failure on the system.

With respect to claim 14, wherein said message to be sent is locked before the integrated receiving and generating process is carried out and released after the integrated receiving and generating process has been finished (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12).

With respect to claim 15, wherein said key to be used for generating the signature is locked before the integrated receiving and generating process is carried out and released after the integrated receiving and generating process has been finished (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12).

With respect to claim 17, wherein said integrated receiving and generating process is carried out as an ACID transaction (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12).

With respect to claim 20, Kinnis teaches the method for validating a message with a signature, wherein said method comprises: receiving said message with said signature (see page 15 lines 19-24 i.e. The digital signature service receives the signature file. The certificate, document and signature are extracted from the signature file.); sending a request to a security device (page 12 line 23 – page 13 line 3); validating said signature in said security device (see figure 7 digital signature service and page 15 lines 16-24 i.e. the digital signature service verifies that the signature is from a trusted certificate authority); and storing of said message in response to the result of the validation (see page 15 lines 8-15 i.e. if the document is verified through the digital signature, the document and the signature are stored in a persistent data store such as data store 700). Kinnis does not teach starting an ACID transaction and committing said ACID transaction (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). Slaughter teaches starting an ACID transaction and committing said ACID transaction (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have used ACID since in the event of a failure, all operations and procedures should be undone, and all data should rollback to its previous state (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). Therefore one

would have been motivated to have ACID to decrease the effects of failure on the

system.

With respect to claim 21, Kinnis teaches the method for generating a signature

for a message, wherein said method comprises: acquiring said message to be signed

(page 12 line 23 – page 13 line 3); sending a request to a security device (see figure 5

digital signature service and page 12 line 23 – page 13 line 3); generating said

signature for said message in said security device (see page 12 line 23 – page 15 line

5); and sending said message with said signature (see figure 5 and page 15 lines 3-5

i.e. once the signature file has been created the user of the digital signature service may

use any means available to send a file to a recipient). Kinnis does not teach starting an

ACID transaction and committing said ACID transaction (see Slaughter column 45 line

63 – column 46 line 12). Slaughter teaches starting an ACID transaction and committing

said ACID transaction (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). It would

have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill

in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have used ACID since in the event of

a failure, all operations and procedures should be undone, and all data should rollback

to its previous state (see Slaughter column 45 line 63 – column 46 line 12). Therefore

one would have been motivated to have ACID to decrease the effects of failure on the

system.

Claims 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Kinnis (WO 01/13574) in view of Sarfati et al (US 2004/0015316) in view of Dickinson et

al (U.S. 6,853,988). Kinnis and Sarfati teach everything with respect to claim 1 above

but does not teach with respect to claim 9, wherein said message is an XML-document.

Dickinson teach wherein said message is an XML-document (see Dickinson column 27

lines 16-25). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have wherein said

message is an XML-document since XML documents advantageously allow designers

to create their own customized document tags, enabling the definition, transmission,

validation, and interpretation of data between applications and between organizations

(see column 9 lines 38-61). Therefore one would have been motivated to have ACID to

decrease the effects of failure on the system.

With respect to claim 16, wherein said message is an XML-document (see

Dickinson column 27 lines 16-25).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Devin Almeida whose telephone number is 571-270-1018. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The

examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Gilberto Barron, can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Devin Almeida
Patent Examiner
6/30/2008

/Benjamin E Lanier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2132